(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecure wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

Bt. Cotton

340. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur has said that certain varieties of Bt. Cotton would not be successful in India;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The reports of the Central Institute for cotton Research indicates that Bt. technology is effective in controlling bollworms, a major pest in cotton crop.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest cover

341. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special schemes have been formulated in the Tenth Plan to bring 33 per cent of the country under forests cover by 2012.

(b) if so, the details thereof;